

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07

SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 PRS-01

NRC-05 HA-05 CU-04 /145 W

-----000737 020759Z /14

P R 020610Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4859

INFO USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 0802

FOR EUR/RPM, EUR/RPE, EUR/SOV AND COMMERCE (BEWT) FROM
USDEL CSCE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, OCON

SUBJ: BELGRADE CSCE -- BASKET TWO - DISCUSSION OF AUSTRIAN AND
SOVIET ENERGY TEXTS

REF: BELGRADE 746

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL, DRAFTING GROUP RESUMED DISCUSSION
OF ENERGY PROPOSALS AT FEB 1 MEETING. UK REP, SPEAKING ON
BEHALF OF THE EC-9, PREFACED HIS RESPONSE TO THE TABLED
PROPOSALS BY STRESSING THAT, BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE SUBJECT, PROPOSALS DEALING WITH ENERGY COOPERATION
REQUIRE THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. ADDRESSING HIMSELF
TO THE AUSTRIAN TEXT, UK REP EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE
IDEA THAT THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IS AN ESSENTIAL
PREREQUISITE FOR COOPERATION ACTIVITIES, BUT POINTED OUT
THAT THE PROPOSAL TO CONVENE AN EXPERTS GROUP WOULD
DUPLICATE AND POSSIBLY UNDERMINE SIMILAR ONGOING
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ECE EFFORTS. HE THEN OFFERED THE EC-9 TEXT (REFTEL)
WHICH, HE STATED, CONFORMS TO SUBSTANCE OF AUSTRIAN
PROPOSAL BUT AT SAME TIME RECOGNIZES WORK UNDERWAY IN
ECE.

2. IGNORING EC-9 TEXT AND SETTING ASIDE BOTH SOVIET TEXTS,
SOVIET REP SUGGESTED FOLLOWING MARRIAGE OF THE AUSTRIAN AND SOVIET

PROPOSALS, WHICH WOULD CALL FOR CONVENING OF EXPERTS MEETINGS AS A STEP IN THE SEQUENCE LEADING TO A HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE. BEGIN TEXT:

... IN PARTICULAR ON THE ENERGY BALANCE FOR EUROPE, CONCRETE PROPOSALS MIGHT BE FORMULATED AS TO THE PROBLEMS SUITABLE FOR CONSIDERATION AT AN ALL-EUROPEAN INTERSTATE CONFERENCE ON COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD. END TEXT.

3. UK REP NOTED THAT SUBSTANCE OF SOVIET PROPOSAL WAS NOT NEW AND THAT IT HAD RECEIVED SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. HE STATED THAT THE NEED FOR AND USEFULNESS OF SUCH A CONFERENCE HAD NOT YET BEEN DEMONSTRATED, BUT LEFT THE DOOR OPEN, HOWEVER TO A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE. CANADIAN REP, NOTING THAT AGREEMENT ON THE SOVIET AMENDMENT APPEARED UNLIKELY AT THE MEETING, PRESSED FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE EC-9 TEXT AS ONE ON WHICH AGREEMENT WAS POSSIBLE.

4. SOVIET REP SHRUGGED OFF WESTERN COMMENTS, STATING THAT THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH IS SELF-SUFFICIENT IN ENERGY, IS MERELY EXHIBITING GOODWILL IN PROPOSING SUCH A CONFERENCE. IN CONTRAST, HE SAID, WESTERN REJECTION OF THE SOVIET INITIATIVE DEMONSTRATES NOT ONLY A LACK OF CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE, BUT OF GOODWILL IN GENERAL. UK REP REJECTED SOVIET ARGUMENT AND PRESSED FOR CONSENSUS ON THE EC-9 TEXT, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS A CONSTRUCTIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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WESTERN APPROACH TO THIS ISSUE. AFTER SOME BEATING AROUND THE BUSH SOVIET REP FINALLY STATED THAT THE EC TEXT WAS UNACCEPTABLE.

5. DEBATE ON ENERGY PROPOSALS ENDED WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO AGREE ON ANY TEXT AT THIS TIME. DOOR WAS LEFT OPEN FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION THIS TOPIC AT LATER DATE. GOLDBERG

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Draft Date: 02 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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